

## CLAIMS

(1) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a sheet transport path leading from a sheet feeding section through an image forming position to a sheet ejecting section;

a lower sheet ejecting roller arranged in the sheet ejecting section below the sheet transport path; and

an upper sheet ejecting roller arranged above the sheet transport path so as to be in direct contact with the lower sheet ejecting roller,

wherein the upper sheet ejecting roller is divided in a direction perpendicular to a sheet transport direction into a plurality of portions and the portions are in direct contact with the lower sheet ejecting roller at respective points in the sheet transport direction.

(2) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein part or all of the portions of the upper sheet ejecting roller are displaced from one another upstream or downstream in the sheet transport direction.

(3) An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the upper sheet ejecting roller includes a sheet pinch roller, a first lift-preventing roller, and a second lift-preventing roller, and

wherein the sheet pinch roller, the first lift-preventing roller, and the second lift-preventing roller are in direct contact with the lower sheet ejecting roller

at respective points in the sheet transport direction.

(4) An image forming apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein the sheet pinch roller, the first lift-preventing roller, and the second lift-preventing roller are arranged symmetrically in relation to a center line of the sheet transport path.